

# C. P. STEINMETZ DIES IN SUDDEN RELAPSE

Heart Attack Takes Electrical  
"Wizard" While the Nurse  
Goes for His Breakfast.

CALLED BIGLOS TO SCIENCE

Edison and Others Pay Tributes  
to His Services and  
Discoveries.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., Oct. 26.—  
Death came suddenly today to Charles  
Proteus Steinmetz, the "wizard" of elec-  
tricity, while he was alone in his sick-  
room, which he was counting on leaving  
soon, so far had his recovery progressed.

The scientist slept most soundly last  
night of any night since the breakdown  
which sent him to bed following his re-  
cent trip to the Pacific Coast. He asked  
his nurse to have his breakfast served  
to him in bed, and she left the room to  
have the meal prepared. William Hay-  
den, one of his adopted grandsons, en-  
tered the room a short time after 8  
o'clock with the breakfast and found  
the scientist dead.

The physicians gave out the following  
statement:

"Dr. Steinmetz died suddenly a few  
minutes after 8 o'clock this morning  
of acute dilation of the heart, follow-  
ing a chronic myocarditis of many  
years' standing, which is a weakening  
of the heart muscles."

Last night Dr. Steinmetz's improve-  
ment had been so marked that he left  
his bed and chatted for a short time  
with members of the Hayden family.  
The head of the family, J. L. R. Hay-  
den, is his adopted son.

After returning to bed, he read a  
book, "The Physics of Air," and  
marked several passages which he  
wanted Mr. Hayden to read with him.  
He was bright and cheerful and re-  
marked that he would soon be out  
again and back to work. He fell  
asleep about 10 o'clock, and for the  
first time since he had been ill slept  
through till 5 o'clock this morning.

The body will lie in state on Sunday  
afternoon from 4 until 8 o'clock at the  
Steinmetz home, 108 Wendell Avenue.  
On Monday afternoon the funeral ser-  
vice will be held at 2 o'clock.

While Dr. Steinmetz was reported to  
have received one of the greatest sal-  
aries ever paid to an electrical expert,  
his friends say he left a very modest  
fortune, probably not more than \$25,000.  
In fact it was said that he was not on  
the payroll of the General Electric Com-  
pany, but that the company paid all of  
his living expenses and the expenses of  
his experiments. He held that sufficient.

The trip which Dr. Steinmetz had  
made to the West started Sept. 1, and  
proved much more strenuous than either  
he or members of his adopted family  
had planned. As a result he was forced  
to bed soon after his return, on Oct.  
13. At the time his physicians an-  
nounced that a rest was advisable, al-  
though it was emphasized that his con-  
dition was not serious.

Came to America When 24.

Charles Proteus Steinmetz was born  
in Breslau, Germany, on April 9, 1865.  
His father was in the Government rail-  
way service and was able to give him a  
good education. He studied in the uni-  
versities at Breslau and Berlin, and the  
Polytechnic in Zurich, Switzerland,  
specializing in mathematics, electrical  
engineering and chemistry. In addition,  
he was deeply interested in politics and  
economics and became an active Social-  
ist at a time when the German Govern-  
ment was taking drastic steps to  
stamp out socialism.

This led to conflicts with the authori-  
ties, which prevented him from taking  
a university degree. As a leading spirit  
in student Socialist clubs and an editor  
of Socialist papers, Steinmetz was re-  
garded as a dangerous youth, and plans  
were made to prosecute him. Warned  
of this move in advance, he escaped to  
Austria and then to Switzerland, where  
he continued his studies, supporting  
himself by writing articles on political  
and scientific subjects. He intended to  
return to Breslau and become a pro-  
fessor in the university after the storm  
blew over, but he happened to meet an  
American student at Zurich who in-  
duced him to come to the United States.

In 1889, at the age of 24, Steinmetz  
arrived here with his American friend  
in the steerage of a French liner. Pen-  
niless and unable to speak more than  
a few words of English, the youthful  
genius was under the additional handi-  
cap of an illness which left him with

a badly swollen face. The immigration  
authorities at Ellis Island refused to  
let him enter the country and sent him  
to the detention pen. Finally, however,  
he was allowed to enter as the result  
of the appeals of his American travel-  
ing companion.

Got First Job at \$2 a Day.

Steinmetz had letters to electricians in  
New York but was unable to find em-  
ployment until he met Rudolph Elcke-  
meyer, an inventor, manufacturer and  
pioneer in the field of electrical re-  
search in America. Elckemeyer gave  
him a job at \$2 a day in the drafting  
room of the Osterheld and Elckemeyer  
factory at Yonkers. In a remarkably  
short time Steinmetz had made a name  
for himself. Besides working on in-  
ventions for electric motors and generators  
and electric street cars, Steinmetz at-  
tracted attention by articles he con-  
tributed to scientific papers here and in  
Germany, especially on the theory of  
alternating currents. He was put in  
charge of a research laboratory and be-  
gan to specialize on magnetic testing.

Mr. Steinmetz eventually became the  
chief consulting engineer and head of  
the Consulting Engineering Department,  
which he organized, for the General Elec-  
tric Company. He was probably the out-  
standing example in America of the close  
relationship between modern science and  
modern industry. His work did not con-  
sist merely of applying the results of  
scientific inventions to business. On the  
contrary, he was the exponent both of  
pure science and applied science, devot-  
ing himself to research and inventions  
which, with his far-seeing eye, he  
counted on to result in ultimate benefit  
to industry and through it to society as  
a whole, as well as dealing with prob-  
lems of immediate importance to the  
company which employed him.

He was head of a magnificently  
equipped laboratory at Schenectady and  
the results of his work there were of  
such a nature that they even astounded  
his only rival as an electrical wizard  
in America—Thomas A. Edison, who re-  
cently paid a visit to the General Elec-  
tric Company plant.

An example of his devotion to pure  
science was his invention of a light-  
ning generator, which gained wide pub-  
licity last year. He was compared to a  
modern Jove sitting on his throne in the  
laboratory at Schenectady, when it was  
learned that he had succeeded in pro-  
ducing and controlling an "indoor  
thunderstorm," hurling a bolt of arti-  
ficial lightning with the energy of  
1,000,000 horsepower, and getting the  
shattering effect of real lightning. He  
did this in the hope of contributing to  
the development of lightning arresters.

Mr. Steinmetz was greatly interested  
in efforts to produce "cold light," which  
would be much more efficient and less  
costly than the present electric light.

Another method for the conservation  
of coal in which Mr. Steinmetz was par-  
ticularly interested was in the exten-  
sion of water power. He once said that  
there was enough undeveloped water  
power in New York State to cut down  
the consumption of coal by two-thirds.

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### Believed Steam Locomotive Doomed.

The electrical wizard frequently said that the steam locomotive was doomed anyway because of the advances in electricity. He predicted that the railroads would do away with "archaic steam locomotives" and adopt electrification as soon as they could finance it, and that this change would mean the saving of two-thirds of the present consumption of coal for railway transportation.

"Electricity is doing for the distribution of energy what the railroads have done for the distribution of materials," he said.

Steinmetz was also interested in the electric motor as a means for transportation. Within a year of his death he perfected a design for an electric automobile, and organized a company called the Steinmetz Corporation to put it on the market. It was to run 200 miles without having its batteries recharged, to attain a speed of fifteen to forty miles an hour, to weigh only 2,000 pounds, and to sell for \$1,000 or less.

The interests of Steinmetz transcended the purely scientific. The facility with which he wrote scientific articles that made complex subjects plain to the lay reader was an example of his broad viewpoint. This led him to regard science as only one phase of human activity, and made him something of a philosopher as well as a scientist.

For example, he often spoke on the relation of science and religion, denying that they are necessarily incompatible. He declared that science had not disproved the beliefs on which religion is founded, and that the question was "still open." His interpretation of Einstein's theory of relativity was regarded as one of the most lucid articles written about that much-discussed scientist.

Steinmetz also took an active interest in questions of politics and economics. As he became older he became more moderate in his Socialistic views. Less than a year ago he declared that while capitalism was gradually being abandoned, few people in this country believed in Socialism, and that the ideal economic system was the monistic plan, unifying capital and labor completely by letting both participate in the profits through dividends, and in the management through representation on the boards of directors.

### Offered Lenin His Technical Skill.

After the war he believed that this country should do something to help in the reconstruction of Soviet Russia, and he wrote to Lenin, early in 1922, offering his help in the technical phase of the industrial reconstruction of the country. Lenin declined his offer on the ground that it would be hard to make use of his services unless relations were re-established between the United States and Russia. Later in the year the scientist accepted a position on the advisory committee of the Kuzbas colony in Siberia.

Steinmetz was a naturalized American citizen and was interested in politics in Schenectady. George R. Lunn, as the Socialist Mayor of that city, appointed him President of the Board of Education in 1912, and he held that position through succeeding administrations until his death. He was President of the Common Council from 1916 to his death. Last year he ran for State Engineer on the Socialist and Farmer-Labor tickets. Though defeated he received 200,000 votes, running 25,000 votes ahead of his ticket.

Steinmetz was the author of the following books—"Theory and Calculation of Alternating-Current Phenomena," "Theoretical Elements of Electrical Engineering," "Theory and Calculation of Transient Electrical Phenomena and Oscillations," "General Lectures on Electrical Engineering," "Radiation, Light and Illumination," "Engineering Mathematics," "Electric Discharges, Waves and Impulses," "America and the New Epoch," "Theory and Calculation of Electric Circuits," "Theory and Calculation of Electrical Apparatus." He also contributed many articles in magazines, not only on his experiments in electrical engineering, but on pure mathematics. He was regarded as one of the leading mathematicians in the country.

He was a member and past President of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, an honorary member of the National Electric Light Association and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was also a member of the American Mathematical Society, the Quaternion Society, the Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Electrochemical Society, the Illuminating Engineering Society, the Physical Society, and other scientific bodies.

## PAY TRIBUTE TO STEINMETZ.

### Scientists and Industrialists Call His Death a Great Loss.

News of the death of C. P. Steinmetz was received in New York City with sorrow, and many tributes to his genius were paid by scientists. His loss was a shock to his friends here, as they had believed he was recovering from his illness, and would soon return to his desk.

A special meeting of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers was held yesterday afternoon, at 29 West Thirty-ninth Street. Professor W. I. Slichter of Columbia University presided, and was authorized to appoint a committee to draft resolutions expressing the sorrow of the Institute.

The following tributes were expressed

to the press on the death of Mr. Steinmetz:

Thomas A. Edison: "I regret very much to learn of the death of Mr. Steinmetz. The world has lost one of its greatest practical mathematicians, and the electrical industry will miss one of its shining lights."

Dr. Michael I. Pupin, professor of electro-mechanics, Columbia University: "The death of Mr. Steinmetz has caused a great loss to the electrical engineering profession and to the elec-

trical science. He was a splendid scientist and a splendid man. I have known him for thirty-four years personally, and I mourn his loss more than I can say."

Calvert Townley, Vice President of the Westinghouse Electric Company: "Mr. Steinmetz was one of the most eminent and best known electrical engineers of his time. He was recognized as one of our foremost authorities on electrical development during the past twenty-five years, and his loss will

be deeply felt by the entire industry, including manufacturing, engineering and utility companies."

Frank B. Jewett, Vice President of the Western Electric Company: "In the death of Dr. Steinmetz the electrical industry, not alone of the United States but of the world at large, loses one of its conspicuous and distinguished members. Surmounting physical frailties which would have justified amply a quiet life, he brought to the support of a fertile brain and a vivid imagination an almost incredible energy."

Professor George B. Pogram, Dean of the School of Mines, Engineering and Chemistry, Columbia University: "Mr. Steinmetz was a remarkable organizer of electrical engineering design. He did a great deal to reduce the design of electrical machinery to a systematical and mathematical process."

### Left Much in His Writings.

Walter I. Slichter, Professor of Electrical Engineering at Columbia University—"The death of Dr. Steinmetz is a great loss to the electrical engineering profession and to the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. His analytical mind and mathematical ability have enabled him to meet and solve many of the scientific and technical problems encountered in the rapid development of the art."

General John J. Carty, Vice President, American Telephone and Telegraph Company—"The loss of Mr. Steinmetz is a severe blow to the entire electrical profession. He was one of our foremost electrical engineers. Despite certain physical handicaps, he had a brilliant mind and possessed a remarkable fundamental knowledge of the science of electricity which he brought to bear at first in the design of motors and generators."

Charles F. Berkey, Professor of Geology at Columbia University—"Dr. Steinmetz was one of the most famous scientists in America. His loss will be keenly felt by the scientific field in general. He was known all over the world, and probably was as highly regarded as any man in his line in the whole of America."

Professor John H. Morecroft of Columbia University—"The electrical engineering profession owes to Steinmetz the modern mathematical treatment of all alternating current problems. His great mathematical ability, combined with his keen perception of the phenomena which go on in electric circuits, made his contributions to this field of engineering problems more notable than those of any other engineer."

### His Reputation was World Wide.

E. W. Rice Jr., Honorary Chairman, General Electric Company—"The sudden death of Dr. Steinmetz comes as a great shock to his friends in the General Electric organization, including the directors, officers and every employe. He joined our ranks some thirty years ago and during all this time has rendered services of the most conspicuous character and extraordinary value."

E. M. Herr, President of the Westinghouse Electric Company—"All electrical engineers and others interested in electrical development were greatly shocked to hear this morning of the death of C. P. Steinmetz. This eminent electrical engineer interested himself so frequently in the latest development of this wonderful art that his writings and addresses had an especial public appeal. He will be sadly missed in the engineering profession, which has by his death lost a very eminent member."





**DR. CHARLES P. STEINMETZ**

Who Died Suddenly Yesterday at His Home in Schenectady, N. Y.



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EXAMINED AND APPROVED  
FOR FILING  
G. J. R.

# Dr. Steinmetz, Electric Genius, Dies Suddenly

## Great Mathematician and Engineer Suffered Strain on Vitality on Trip to Pacific Coast Recently

### Achievements Colossal

### Most Important Inventions Made in General Electric Plant at Schenectady

SCHENECTADY, Oct. 26.—Charles Proteus Steinmetz, one of the world's greatest mathematicians and electricians, died of sudden heart failure this morning at his home in this city. He had recently returned from a trip to the Pacific coast, during which his physical vitality seems to have been overtaxed. For the last two weeks he had been under the care of a physician and nurse, but was regarded by them as doing well and as making progress toward complete recovery. A little after 8 o'clock this morning his breakfast was taken to him as he lay in his bed. Just as it was placed before him he expired, peacefully and without warning.

The body of Dr. Steinmetz will lie in state at his home here to-morrow. Burial will be on Monday afternoon, after private funeral services, at Vale Cemetery in a plot which the inventor acquired several years ago. The Rev. Ernest T. Caldecott, pastor of All Souls' Unitarian Church, will officiate at the services, assisted by the Rev. Dr. A. W. Clark.

Charles Proteus Steinmetz, son of Carl Heinrich and Caroline (Neubert) Steinmetz, was born in the old city of Breslau, in Silesia (which Frederick II of Prussia seized from Austria), on April 9, 1865. At the age of seven years he was sent to the best primary school his father could find and thence to the high school and university.

#### Studied Mathematics Early

From the first he was intensely interested in mathematics, to his thorough study of which he in after life always attributed all the success he attained in science and engineering. He was also interested in chemistry and electricity and had a small laboratory at home in which he spent much time. At the university he gave most attention to mathematics and astronomy, the science of electrical engineering having scarcely come into existence and arc and incandescent lights being as yet mere curiosities. His father was a government official and was able to let him spend as much time as he wished at his studies. He studied at the universities of Breslau and of Berlin, meanwhile also teaching mathematics.

While thus engaged he became interested in socialism and joined the Social Democratic party, which at that time was very much under the official ban. When the editor of a Socialist paper was arrested and imprisoned, young Steinmetz secretly assumed his duties, and for several months edited the paper and also two other periodicals, "Popular Science Leaflets" and "Popular Science Fortnightly."

#### Flees to Switzerland

While thus engaged, he had several narrow escapes from detection and arrest by the police. He fell under grave suspicion and attempts were made to have him excluded from the university. Finally, learning that his arrest had at last been ordered, he fled across the Austrian frontier and thence made his way to Switzerland. There he found himself almost penniless. But he managed to dispose of a manuscript book on astronomy to publishers, who paid him for it at the rate of thirty-seven francs a month, on which he was able to live. Also he wrote occasional articles on astronomy for a Socialist paper at Zurich and thus made from fifteen to twenty francs a month more.

This was in the summer of 1888. That fall he entered the great polytechnic school at Zurich, and studied mechanical engineering, turbines, steam engines, bridge construction and other such subjects. The next year he and an American fellow student with whom he had roomed came to America in the steerage of a French liner, paying seventy-five francs each passage money. Some trifling illness on shipboard gave him a swollen face on landing, wherefore he was sent for a few days to the "detention pen" and threatened with deportation, but on the pleadings of

his companion was finally admitted to this country.

Soon after landing he obtained employment at Yonkers, N. Y., as a draftsman, at \$12 a week, in the office of Rudolph Eickemeyer, electrician. One day his employer was much annoyed because he had spilled some aniline ink on his hands and could not get it off. Young Steinmetz promptly told him of a simple chemical mixture which would remove it and thus won the friendly interest of his employer, who promoted him to have oversight of all new and experimental work in the establishment. Meantime he pursued his studies, at night, and wrote scientific papers for the press.

A few years later, in 1892, the establishment for which he was working was acquired with various others by the General Electric Company, and he was sent to Lynn, Mass., by that concern to have charge of one of its plants there. Thence, on January 1, 1893, he was transferred to headquarters at Schenectady, as the chief consulting engineer of the General Electric Company, a place which he filled for the remainder of his life and in which his chief work was done and his most important inventions were made. In 1902 he became also professor of electrophysics in Union University, and continued in that office until his death. In 1912 he was appointed president of Schenectady Board of Education, and in 1915 was elected to the Common Council on the Socialist ticket. Last year he was the Socialist candidate for State Engineer and Surveyor.

He was for a time president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and was a member of numerous scientific and educational organizations. Harvard gave him an honorary A. M. degree in 1902, and Union University a Ph.D. in 1903.

Inveterate Cigar Smoker

He never married. In stature he was almost a dwarf, but he had a massive head and brilliant eyes, commanding the attention of every one who saw him. He was an almost incessant smoker of cigars made expressly for him, which were very long and very mild, providing, he said, a maximum of smoke with a minimum of nicotine.

His special interests in electrical science were magnetics, the symbolic method of alternating current calculations, and transient phenomena; but there was scarcely a detail of any branch of electrical science, of astronomy or of mathematics with which he was not conversant in masterly fashion. His writings were voluminous.

## Wizard's Death Mourned As Grave Loss to Science

Prominent persons throughout the city expressed deep regret yesterday on hearing of the death of Dr. Steinmetz and reviewed his remarkable list of achievements in electricity. Among them were Thomas A. Edison and Dr. F. P. Jewett, vice-president of the Western Electric Company and formerly president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. Mr. Edison said:

"The world has lost one of its greatest practical mathematicians and the electrical industry will miss one of its shining lights.

"I regret very much to learn of the death of Mr. Steinmetz."

Mr. Jewett said: "In the death of Dr. Steinmetz, the electrical industry, not alone of the United States but of the world at large, loses one of its conspicuous and distinguished members.

"Surmounting physical afflictions which would have justified a quiet life, he brought to the support of a fertile brain and a vivid imagination an almost incredible energy. For years he was a leader in the field of electrical research, particularly in matters pertaining to machine design and the transmission of energy, and his work in this direction has added much to our knowledge of the mathematical tools for solving complex electrical problems.

"As president of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers in 1901-1902, and throughout his lifelong work in its behalf, he did much to bring it to its present high place as one of the greatest professional engineering societies of the world."

Acting Mayor Murray Hulbert said: "The death of Charles P. Steinmetz is an incalculable loss not only to the people of this state and nation, but of the world. His wonderful intellect, devoted to the scientific study and development of electrical power, had already produced such beneficent results as to warrant a belief in the public mind that had the life of this electrical wizard been spared a decade longer the results in the development of economical light, heat and power would have been well-nigh inestimable. Devoted as he was to industrial, scientific research and beneficial discoveries to mankind, his loss is universal. His life was the arduous great-

ness of things done and the hope of still greater benefits to mankind."

Arthur Williams, general commercial manager of the New York Edison Company and president of the Electrical Board of Trade of New York, said:

"In the death of Dr. Steinmetz the scientific world loses one of the greatest minds it has ever known. His achievements and contributions to science and industry the world over, accomplished under the most trying physical conditions, will remain always an inspiration to those who are acquainted with his life's work. The great things he accomplished will always mean much for the betterment of the civilized world."

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N.Y. Tribune  
Oct. 29/23

# Throngs in Solid File Pay Tribute To Dr. Steinmetz

## Dead Inventor's Life Ex- tolled in Schenectady's Pulpits; Schools and Col- lege Close for Funeral

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., Oct. 28.—For four hours this afternoon an unbroken line of people filed past the body of Dr. Charles Proteus Steinmetz, genius of electricity, as it lay in state in the flower-filled sitting room of his Schenectady home. Delegations from the city government, the college, schools, industries and groups of children came to pay final homage to a man known internationally for his development of electric energy, and locally as a good citizen.

The room in which the casket was placed was filled with flowers, chiefly chrysanthemums. Conspicuous among them were orchids from Leroy Hayden and his family, the adopted "children" of the inventor. Another tribute of orchids came from a group of children in whom the inventor had been interested. A ribbon bore the inscription "To Daddy."

Private funeral services will be held in the home to-morrow afternoon and then the body will be borne to Vale Cemetery for burial. The schools and Union College will be closed all day to-morrow; the General Electric Works, in common with other plants of the company throughout the country, will observe five minutes of silence, and city and county buildings will be closed for half the day. Tributes to Dr. Steinmetz were delivered from the pulpits of all city churches this morning. Next Wednesday a memorial service will be held in the All Souls' Unitarian Church, of which Dr. Steinmetz was a member.

### Electric Plant to Pay Silent Tribute To-day to Steinmetz

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Oct. 28.—All activity at the Bridgeport plant of the General Electric Company will suspend at 2 o'clock to-morrow afternoon for a period of five minutes, at the time the funeral of Dr. Charles P. Steinmetz, world famous electrical engineer and scientist of the General Electric Company, is being held in Schenectady. This is a tribute similar to that paid by the company at the time of President Harding's funeral.

Flags at the General plant will be at half staff for a week, General Manager W. S. Clark said to-night.

Charles P. Steinmetz, electrical wizard, who died last Friday, was hailed as "Comrade Steinmetz" by four Socialist speakers at a memorial meeting held last night in the Debs auditorium of the People's House, East Fifteenth Street. Another speaker, B. B. Rushmore, a consulting engineer and associate of Dr. Steinmetz in the General Electric Company, suggested a memorial scholarship be endowed in his honor at the Rand school.

"Success in their chosen profession," said Harry W. Laidler, director of the League for Industrial Democracy, "has alienated many from the Socialist movement, but it meant to Dr. Steinmetz only a larger opportunity for service. In an environment most conservative he fearlessly strove for fundamental change in the industrial system."

Mr. Rushmore, in recalling incidents

in the life of Dr. Steinmetz, said the dead inventor believed in a future life, was a very devout man, one of Schenectady's best citizens, a lover of children and had paid for the education of large numbers of young men and women.

Algernon Lee, director of the Rand School, of whose owning board Dr. Steinmetz was a member; Walter M. Polakoff, engineer, formerly at Cornell University, and Lena Morrow Lewis, of Los Angeles, national Socialist organizer, were other speakers. Two hundred persons were present.



### Genius Does Have Peculiarities.

thetically reveals. "It was impossible," he writes,

to make him do anything except what he himself desired to do. He stayed away from the works for days; he smoked in buildings in which the President himself did not dare to smoke; he used the clockwise rotation of vectors when everybody was using the opposite rotation; he insisted on saying "ze" for "the"; he wore a soft shirt and a shabby gray suit at formal functions, and he belonged to a political party which cursed his company and its principal customers for years.

Most notable is Professor KARAPETOFF's article in the concluding paragraph, which deserves quotation in full, and one is glad that the final sentence is true—that America knew how to treat a man like this—a man whose life, instead of being happy and successful, so easily might have been a tragic failure:

Modest, thoughtful, a prodigious worker, always ready to discuss an electrical problem on equal terms with any cub engineer, he was the very impersonation of the principle of losing one's self so as to find it again in bigger things. His contribution to our welfare and knowledge is beyond measure or computation, and his life is a shining example of a quiet, straight and unswerving path amidst the turmoil of conflicting passions, avarice, extravagance, cure-alls, pseudo-science, pseudo-patriotism, pseudo-life itself. And yet, withal, his life is also a glowing tribute to this great, broad-minded country of ours which early recognized his genius, took him lovingly in her arms and carried him steadily to the pinnacle of his fame.

### He Understood the Man and His Work.

Of the many appreciations of CHARLES PROTEUS STEINMETZ printed since his death, none, perhaps,

has been written either with more sincerity of admiration or with a better knowledge of the man and his work than that contributed to The Cornell Sun by Professor VLADIMIR KARAPETOFF of the Cornell School of Electrical Engineering. To him, evidently, the "little cripple with the giant mind" who passed the turnstile at Ellis Island only "because of the laxness of our immigration laws (or officials)" and yet, ten years later, was President of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, deserves high place among the country's great men.

That STEINMETZ was a Socialist his friend explains as due to the physical handicap which gave him active sympathy with those whom he believed to be handicapped economically. A better theory is that socialism was one of STEINMETZ's many dreams, the others being those that enabled him to visualize before others could see them the enormous possibilities of science applied to electricity. The difference between the dreams that came true and the one that has not might be ascribed to the fact that as an engineer STEINMETZ started with a thorough training, while as a publicist and economist he had none at all.

To describe the freedom given to STEINMETZ by the General Electric Company Professor KARAPETOFF has evolved a happy phrase—"he was allowed to try to generate electricity out of the square root of minus one." That, doubtless, was what the man often seemed to be doing to those to whom mathematics as he knew it was equally incomprehensible and useless. Fortunately his employers—no genius ever had better and few as good—took a different view.

From -

N. Y. Times

11/1/23

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